(d) a carrier layer;

wherein the polycationic polymer is bonded to the absorbent gelling particles; and wherein the absorbent gelling particles, deposited onto the carrier layer, are fixed to the surface of the carrier layer by the glue microfibers and wherein the glue microfibers are meltblown fibers.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 at page 6, lines 6-10.

REMARKS

Applicants' Agent wishes to thank the Examiner for examining the above-identified Application. Claims 1-19 and 39-41 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-19 and 39-41 have been rejected.

This response fully addresses each and every issue raised in the Office Action dated April 25, 2001. A detailed discussion of each issue is provided in the sections which follow.

The Examiner's 35 USC § 103 Objection

Claims 1-19 and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wang, et al. (5849405) in view of Mukaida, et al. (EP 612533), Minto, et al. (EP 156160), Early, et al. (4468428), and Anjur, et al. (5645542). The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize microfibers to bind the gelling particle to the carrier layer. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Wang, et al., as previously discussed, discloses an absorbent material comprising a mixture of: (1) a plurality of absorbent gelling particles comprising a water-insoluble, water-swellable polymer, and (2) an absorbent property modification polymer reactive with at least one component included in a urine. As is clearly stated in the objects of the cited application (column 4, lines 12-16), the purpose of the cited technology is to improve the jelly/mushy feel of absorbent articles after usage by protecting the physical continuity of the hydrogel formed after swelling in the presence of body fluids. There is nothing in Wang which would lead one of skill in the art to "glue" the water-insoluble, water-swellable polymer, to a carrier layer by any means and certainly not the glue microfibers of the instant application.